

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service is a weekly news service for the labor movement. It is published by the American Federation of Labor, 1515 Broadway, New York, N. Y. It is a non-profit organization and its purpose is to provide news and information to the labor movement. It is not affiliated with any political party or organization.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1946

ROBERT HEART, Secretary-Treasurer

Give to
the
Red Cross

Vol. 30, No. 6

WHOLE NO. 1817

WILLIAM GREEN, President

Lewis Sees Historic Turning Point As Green Hails His Return to AFL

Miami—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, was formally welcomed back into the American Federation of Labor at a meeting of the Executive Council and responded with a spirited statement hailing the union's return to the fold as a "historic point in the history of labor."

APL President William Green invited Mr. Lewis to participate with him in the joint press conference after the council meeting. As flashlights were turned on to illuminate the scene for movie cameras, Mr. Green said he had had a "heavy, hearty and cordial welcome" to Mr. Lewis on his arrival here.

Mr. Lewis was then asked to state his opinion of the significance of the union's return. He said: "The United Mine Workers have come back to the American Federation of Labor because they feel it is a constructive action."

He said the union's return was in the interests of the labor movement and of the country as a whole. It will give added protection to our system of free enterprise and to the United Mine Workers of America throughout the years as protection of the freedom of the labor movement against external forces.

"The union's return is a historic event," he said. "It is a sign of the strength of the United Mine Workers of America and of the American Federation of Labor."

Mr. Lewis said he was proud to be a member of the AFL and that he was proud to be a member of the United Mine Workers of America.

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Generous Terms Offered For Return of Brewers

Miami—Generous terms for readmission were offered to the United Brewery and Soft Drink Workers' Union by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. A delegation from the union, headed by Secretary-Treasurer W. L. Krenshaw, appeared before the council and asked for a "friendly settlement" of the dispute which brought about the suspension of the union in 1935.

Mr. Krenshaw informed the council that the union's executive board had voted unanimously to make a bid for readmission. The union's terms could be arranged. He asked the council to make a definite proposition which the delegation could submit to a conference of the United Brewery and Soft Drink Workers' Union.

APL President William Green announced later that the Executive Council had decided to tell the Brewery Workers that the only condition required before their charter can be restored is acceptance of decisions by AFL conventions regarding jurisdictional rights of the United Brewery and Soft Drink Workers' Union. Any further lines of jurisdictional demarcation can be worked out after the union's return, Mr. Green said.

Asked whether this decision meant that the union might soon come back to the AFL, Mr. Green replied that he was hopeful of that result.

Council Endorses Concerted Drive To Meet Nation's Housing Crisis

Miami—The American Federation of Labor endorsed a concerted drive to meet the nation's housing crisis. The council passed a resolution which called for a "concerted drive" to build new housing units and to improve existing ones.

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German Unions Seek Entry Into American Labor Movement

Miami—The American Federation of Labor recognizes that the task which comes before the German labor movement is to prevent that country from being again divided by the forces of reaction. The establishment of democracy in that country and the development of a truly democratic spirit among the people are no less important as a guarantee of peace in Germany as it is to the restoration of the family of civilized nations.

The collapse of Nazism has become the most important social, economic and political factor in Germany's future. Only through the re-establishment of German labor by the establishment of free, democratic trade unions, the revival of a free press, genuinely democratic political parties and the country free itself from the taint and curse of Nazism.

To attain these ends as speedily and effectively as possible the American Federation of Labor trusts that speed consideration be given immediately to the following prime requisites of a policy designed to promote democracy in Germany by the occupation authorities:

"The occupation authorities should permit, encourage and assist in the speedy reformation of the German labor union as voluntary and democratic organizations."

"Increased facilities should be accorded the trade unions democratically elected in order to build up their resources."

"Trade unions in industrial areas should be allowed freedom to extend their activities in adjoining areas and be accorded the right to demonstrate in a peaceful manner."

"Trade unions should be privileged to institute, publish and distribute trade union journals and trade union literature under proper safeguards."

"Available trade union buildings, meeting places, offices and office equipment, printing facilities, etc., should be made available to the trade union under feasible and practicable conditions in order to advance and enhance trade union administrative activities, cooperative spirit and solidarity among the German laborers who have been restored to their former rightful organizations."

"After the trade and labor unions have been restored and have begun to function, the German government should permit the re-organization of the German labor union as voluntary and democratic organizations."

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Big News Surprises Seen As Council Concludes Eventful Session

Miami—Invigorated and encouraged by the dramatic return to the fold of the United Mine Workers of America, the American Federation of Labor is on its way to big new developments in the coming month.

The Executive Council mapped plans for major organizing drives and paved the way for negotiations looking toward the affiliation of other major unions before winding up its newsworthy mid-winter meeting here.

For strategic reasons, specific details on the important moves under way were withheld for the time being but it was understood that at least 6 substantial organizations, including one independent union, are knocking on the AFL's door for admission.

With labor's enemies making desperate efforts to crush the trade union movement, the dynamic moves were considered a must to underline the need for unity among the workers.

Many of its wayward units on the way home.

Quoted in the news announced by the Executive Council during its final sessions included:

"The Executive Council has now sent on the Executive Council the report of the German labor union which declared that the dominant political party in Germany is the 'Nazis' and that the 'Nazis' are 'increasingly recognized' by American workers and the public in the United States."

"General readmission terms were offered to the French labor union, which will hold a conference next month to consider the return to the AFL."

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Labor's Foreign Policy

Miami—The AFL Executive Council issued a series of declarations on foreign policy and international labor relations which were considered of far-reaching importance.

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Good Neighbor Policy

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AFL Supports Chilean Federation in Critical Struggle With Gov't

Miami—The AFL Executive Council pledged support to the Chilean Federation of Labor in its critical fight to maintain the integrity of the labor movement in that country.

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Law to Improve Education Backed by Executive Council as 'Vital Step'

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NEW HOME FOR AFL SOUGHT BY COUNCIL

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